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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference INT03213N	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/NO2003/000378	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E21B 17/01, E02B 17/00		
Applicant STATOIL ASA et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:	
a. <input type="checkbox"/>	(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/>	(sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 01.03.2005
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000378

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
 - ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
 - ☐ the description:
 - pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☐ the claims:
 - pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☐ the drawings:
 - pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages _____
 - ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☐ the description, pages _____
 - ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>3-14</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-2</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The International Search Report cites the following relevant documents:

D1: US4505618 A

The document discloses an apparatus for protecting marine risers extending underwater from offshore oil drilling rigs in icy waters against damage due to the pressure of ice floes.

The apparatus comprises a sea bed (21) installation (not shown), a vessel (11), a marine riser (14) provided with protecting means (6, 16) suspended from the vessel (1, 11) and covering at least the upper part of the riser (14), the protecting means (6, 16) further being provided with tensioning means (8) attached to the lower end of the protection means.

The cited document does not identify the marine riser (14) as a flexible riser; however a person skilled in the art is well aware of different types of marine risers, e.g. flexible ones. A skilled artisan seeking a solution to protecting a flexible marine riser would therefore find a solution in D1, the use of which would only require ordinary skills.

Subject matter of claims 1 and 2 therefore lacks an inventive step.